

Preliminary Amendment  
Corresponding to U.S. Serial No. 09/571,618  
Our Ref.: 7157-381CON

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/571,618, filed May 15, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/240,399 filed January 29, 1999, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/654,961, filed May 29, 1995 now U.S. Patent No. 5,923,735, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application [Serial] No. 08/440,089, filed May 12, 1995, now abandoned [pending], which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application [Serial] No. 08/111,531, filed August 25, 1993, now abandoned. All the specifications of the above listed applications are incorporated by reference herein.--

Please add the following new paragraph on page 7, line 16:

--Figure 11 is a block diagram of a further alternative embodiment of the self-checkout system and associated communication links.--